The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

April 2007 Issue No. 433

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The 35th Annual RARSFest: This Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 8 am – 3:30 pm
in the Exposition Center at the
North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC

Northern Piedmont's Largest Hamfest
ARRL North Carolina State Convention

Guest Speaker from ARRL HQ
Joe Hallas W1ZR, QST Technical Editor
"Ham Radio's Digital Communication Modes and Techniques"

★ Free Parking
★ 50,000 sq. ft. – All Indoor
★ Climate-Controlled Facility
★ N4C Special Event Station
★ SKYWARN Class: "Understanding Doppler Radar"
★ Build a J-Pole
★ Fox Hunt
★ Walk-In VE Testing
★ Talk-in on 146.64
★ Prizes for Homebrew, QLF, and QBH

For more information, please visit www.rars.org/hamfest.

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
courtney_enzor@yahoo.com

April RARS Meeting

The April RARS program will be "SKYWARN and Weather Threats in Central North Carolina" presented by Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

As directed by the RARS by-laws, there will be the election of a new President and Vice President of the Raleigh ARS to carry on in light of the passing of Dick Bitner W8HYD. The appointed nominating committee, made up of K4HM, KD4ISC, K4HF, and KE4PAX, presented the names of Selene Montgomery KG4RMT for President and Rick Crapse KB4TKQ as Vice-President at the March meeting. Selene would fill the balance of Dick's term through this year, and Rick would fill the balance of Selene's VP term through 12/08. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and voting will then take place. We thank Selene and Rick for accepting these nominations.

~Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and follo-ing RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

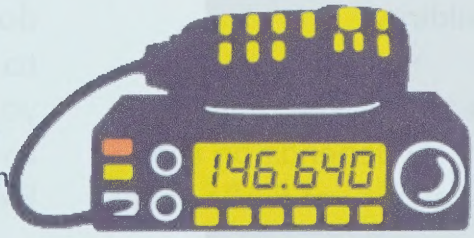
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Public Service Opportunity

Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament
Saturday, March 31 @ 7 am – 3 pm (times are approximate)
Leesville High, Middle, and Elementary Schools
Equipment needed: 2 meter HT, earphones, pencil and paper.
Silly hats, an Odyssey of the Mind tradition, are optional.
Contact Dick KD4ISC kd4isc@arrl.net

2007 RARSFEST Dinner

Hey, folks! It's hamfest time again: March 31-April 1. Part of the hamfest includes our annual hamfest dinner for vendors, dealers, and other attendees – including you! The dinner will be held on Saturday, March 31st from 7 to 8:15pm.

We will be in a new location at the State Fairgrounds this year. The dinner (and hamfest) will be in the Exposition Center next to the Jim Graham Building.

As always, the dinner largely depends on the generosity of RARS members. The club will provide the meat, drinks, and utensils for the meal. We would like club members to donate vegetable dishes, casseroles, salads, and desserts. This potluck method has worked well in the past, and we hope it will continue to be successful this year.

Both store-bought and homemade items are welcome. Whatever you can contribute will be appreciated. Please note that we do not have the capability to keep items hot or cold; your packaging will need to reflect that.
Please bring dishes to the Exposition Center by 6pm on March 31st. There will be signs directing you to the dinner location within the building.

Club members and their families have always been generous in supporting the RARSFEST dinner. Thanks so much for your help in continuing this tradition.

For more information, contact Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Hamfest Social Chairman.

Welcome New RARS Members!

Will Gwaltney, Jr.	KM4SZ
Sam Jenkins	KI4TRG
Evan Pallesen	ZL2TFA
Ray Sollman	KF4AIB
Sherri Gabel	

Hamfest Calendar

April 1	NC ARRL State Convention Raleigh, NC
April 15	Hamfest Chesapeake, VA
April 21	Catawba Valley Hamfest Morganton, NC
May 5	Down East Hamfest Kinston, NC
May 12	Rockingham County Hamfest Spartanburg, SC
May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention Dayton, OH
May 26	Durhamfest Durham, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

April Birthdays

Susan Barlow		4/1
Ray	K2HYD	4/2
Roger	KB4FEU	4/2
Bob	W4TTX	4/3
Ginger	KD4OKP	4/8
Henry	WB2AGA	4/8
Lawrence Carringer		4/9
Dennis	NC4DK	4/10
Sam	KI4SED	4/11
Jim	KB4BZ	4/12
Phillip	KG4IVD	4/16
Dick	KB1HIW	4/17
John	W4WWD	4/20
Pete	KI4LWQ	4/23
Neal	N4HAF	4/23
Don	WA4AVU	4/26
Steve	KB4HDQ	4/29

February 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 418
Traffic: 26/25
Minutes: 719
Sessions: 28

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 70
Minutes: 480
Sessions: 12

Public Service Follow-up — The North Carolina

Article by Brian Young KA9QJT

Above: Rhett KE4HID and Joanna KE4QOZ in their OOM hats! Photo courtesy of Gary KN4AQ.

The Odyssey of the Mind Eastern Regional Tournament was held on Saturday, March 3rd at Wakefield High and Middle Schools. If you've never experienced one of these competitions, imagine teams of students solving interesting technical problems and presenting their solutions in a theatric manner that includes costumes, makeup, props, music, etc. Odyssey of the Mind has it all and appeals to both left and right-brained folks alike.

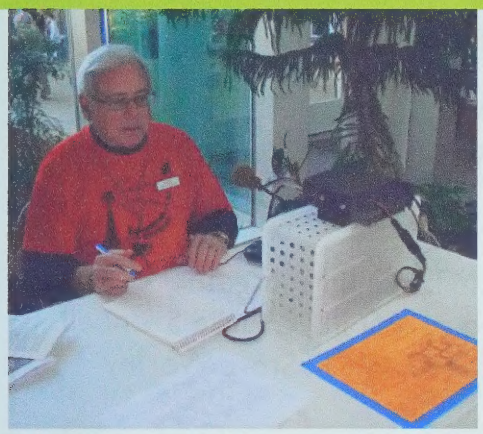
Over 850 kids ranging from the very young up to high school age work on school-sponsored teams (around 40 teams at the regional level!) to tackle problems with such names as "Tag 'Em," "Out of the Box Balsa," and "The Time Capsule." Just to give you an example, here's the description provided by OOM for "Out of the Box Balsa":

> The team's problem is to design, build, and test a structure made of balsa wood and glue that will balance and support weights. The team is allowed to use materials other than balsa wood and glue to assembly the parts of the structure. The structure will be designed to fit completely inside a box that is smaller than the assembled structure. When competition time begins, the team will remove the parts and assembly materials from the box, creatively assemble its structure, and test it by placing weights on it.

Left: The 2007 OOM Regional Tournament Hams. Front Row: Duane KD4DMQ, Paul N9PL, Art W2JNW. Back Row: Bill W1REP, Mike WV5I, Gil KG4YJG, Larry KG4FIQ, Rhett KE4HIH, Joanna KE4QOZ, John AI4RT, Al KE4IHX, and Tanner KB4TYE.

Now, the left side of my brain says, OK, build the structure in pieces, put it in a box, carry it to the competition at the appointed time, take it out of the box, assemble it, and then stack weights on it until it breaks. Easy, right? Well, I missed the right-brained side of the equation apparently. Add to

Odyssey of the Mind Eastern Region Tournament



Above: John AI4RT manning the Net Control station. Photo courtesy of Gary KN4AQ.

this the need to tell a story involving the structure as well as the box it comes out of and you begin to get the picture! This year's structure, and the fact it was assembled from sub-assemblies in front of the judges and audience, didn't exactly lead to the creation of super strong structures as seen in the past (the problem and rules change every year!). While shadowing tournament director Karen Thompson, I did manage to see at least one structure hold up to about 30 pounds of weight before it snapped. OK, so I was a bit underwhelmed. In past years, there were structures built to different rules that survived having over 500 pounds placed on them!!

Now for the ham radio side of the equation. I mentioned above that I shadowed the tournament director. In addition, fourteen other radio-equipped volunteers helped make this one of the smoothest running tournaments we've seen. Some were assigned as shadows and were attached at the hip to the regional director, tournament director, site coordinator, and hospitality coordinator – handling radio traffic to and from them for the day. Others were assigned to a room where the competition for a specific problem was held and like shadowing, their job was to handle radio traffic in and out of that room. Finally, all radio traffic was coordinated through a net control station. This year's station was set up just inside the door at the high school. The 2 meter station and Ruby 270 antenna (at ~30 feet) served the HT traffic from the 2 buildings very well.

Below: OOM Site coordinator Zeke Zecca and Paul N9PL taking care of business. Photo courtesy of Gary KN4AQ.

For those interested in getting their fill of the actual competition, getting a room assignment can be most interesting. Those wishing to get their exercise for the day often request a shadow position as they know they'll be walking several miles during the day.

I'd like to personally thank the following hams for helping with this event: Amber N4NWZ, Paul N9PL, Art W2JNW, Bill W1REP, Rhett KE4HIH, Mike WV5I, Tanner KB4TYE, Joanna KE4QOZ, Al KE4IHX, Gary KN4AQ, John AI4RT, Gil KG4YJG, Duane KD4DMQ, and Larry KG4FIQ.

Nice job folks! I look forward to working with each of you at future events.

Board Meeting - February 2007

Minutes of the RARS Board of Meeting for February 2007

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on February 20, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Steve Worley KB4HDQ and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

Vice President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She thanked all who attended tonight after hearing the sad news about the death of Dick Bitner W8HYD. It was felt that Dick would have wanted the club business to continue on without interruption.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and a second from Rod KI4LSN, the January Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report – Greg KE4PAX advised there were 237 RARS members.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT reported the March meeting will be held in the room upstairs due to other scheduled church activities. The meeting will be the annual RARS birthday celebration and awards ceremony. VE testing will take place and there will be a program on RARSfest 2007.

Committee Reports

Education – Chuck K4HF advised there are no updates on future technician class locations at this time. The loss of Dick W8HYD as an instructor also places a new class schedule on hold.

Exciter – Chuck K4HF has spoken with Courtney Enzor KI4HOS about providing an article about Dick W8HYD for the Exciter. Selene will approach Martin Brossman KI4CFS about coordinating the newsletter article.

Membership – Mary Jo K4MJL asked the group for clarification on collecting dues from renewing members. Greg KE4PAX and the group provided guidelines for Mary Jo.

Board Meeting - February 2007

Webmaster – Steve KB4HDQ advised he had received several requests for converting the main webpage into a tribute to Dick W8HYD. The group agreed to this idea and Steve will follow up with updating the page using photos and stories contributed by members. Chuck K4HF requested that we place a link on the webpage to the QCWA website. Steve agreed to add this to our site.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported that tickets have arrived and a few have already been sold. Online orders are coming in. Flyers will be mailed this week. The next hamfest meeting will be held at the Littlewood's on Monday, February 26. The hamfest will be dedicated to Dick W8HYD and the program will be updated to reflect this. Hank is looking for a new contest chair to replace Dick.

Field Day – Neal Fisher N4HAF continues to improve from his recent hospitalization. Chip Mack WB4ZVR has offered to assist with organizing the field day activities as needed.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC advised that Brian Young KA9QJT will be coordinating hams for the March 3 Eastern Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. Plenty of help is still needed for the March 24 MS walk and March 31 State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported that February 23 is the day that the new CW requirement changes take affect. The ARRL will be operating W1AW on 10 meters to welcome Technicians with their new privileges.

Old Business

Chuck K4HF reported that he has been working on the list for the March awards ceremony. He will contact Gary Pearce KN4AQ to produce the certificates for the event.

The group was not aware of any follow up on the equipment donation mentioned by Gary KN4AQ at the last meeting.

Selene KG4RMT asked members to follow up with summaries of their duties and that we begin reviewing them as they are available.

Board Meeting - February 2007

Selene KG4RMT asked for follow up on the creation and mailing of paper Exciters for those without email. Rod KI4LSN offered to make the needed copies and mail them out. It was also suggested that Courtney KI4HOS make these copies as part of her editor duties. A discussion on how to handle these requests followed. Selene asked for a list of the six people without email and will coordinate the printing and mailing of the Exciter to these members.

New Business

There is a need to fill the vacancy of the President's position. The by-laws state that since the remaining term is greater than six months, a special election must be held to fill the vacancy. Chuck K4HF has offered to head a nomination committee which will make a recommendation at the March general meeting.

The group discussed what type of donation the club would make for the Dick Bitner benevolent fund. Hank K4HM made a motion that the club donates $100 to this fund in memory of Dick. Charlie provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Hank K4HM asked if there was any news on the disposition of Dick's callsign W8HYD. Discussion followed. The group decided to help Dick's family as needed in handling any details in releasing or reassigning his callsign.

General Comments

Hank K4HM advised that all of the hamfest tickets have been marked with the same price in order to fulfill the ticket requirements for the fairgrounds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - March 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for March 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on March 6, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendees enjoyed cake, ice cream and refreshments in celebration of the club's 38th birthday prior to the official start of the meeting.

Vice President Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Selene announced the recent passing of RARS President Dick Bitner W8HYD. She also passed along the thanks of Dick's wife, Molly, for the kind thoughts, compassion and concern expressed by club members during this difficult time. Selene then asked those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Dick.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Rob Rousseau KI4BKE, Matt Frye, Tim Dassinger KD4MBC, Kevin Jones, Bob Chapman KI4TRE, Russell Kandel KE4IFE and Alan Balanger KI4TRD. Neal Fisher N4HAF was also welcomed back after his recent hospitalization.

Announcements:

- VE testing will occur at tonight's meeting.
- The next RARS dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.
- The Charlotte Hamfest will take place on March 10 and 11.
- The Kinston Down East Hamfest will be held on March 25.
- RARSfest will be on April 1 at the Expo building at the NC State Fairgrounds.

Dick Orander KD4ISC thanked Brian Young KA9QJT for coordinating hams at the March 3 Eastern Region Odyssey of the Mind tournament. Thanks were also given to the ham crew that supported that event. The MS Walk at RTP will take place on March 24. Bob Conder K4RLC and wife Alanna K4AAC will be coordinating hams for that event. The Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament is on March 31 at Leesville High, Middle and Elementary schools. Plenty of hams are needed for these events. Those interested can contact Dick after the meeting or at kd4isc@arrl.net.

Board Meeting - February 2007

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 243 RARS members.

Selene KG4RMT presented certificates to the following members in recognition for their service to the club:

- Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL – for service as RARS Director at Large (2004-2006) and for his programs on Emergency Preparedness.
- Alan Pitegoff Ab4OZ – for his many years of service as RARS VE team Morse code examiner.
- Charlie Brown W4VFJ – for his years of service as a RARS volunteer examiner team leader.
- Courtney Enzor KI4HOS – for service as the Exciter editor.
- Edward Breeden N4SSU – for promoting and facilitating the activities of the Tarheel SWL and Scanner group.
- Henry Heller WB2AGA – for his leadership of the Raleigh Citizen's Emergency Response Team and promoting communications readiness for that program.
- Bruce Buck KC4UQN – for his service as RARSfest Talk-in coordinator and for his work as the soundman for our December holiday program.
- Chris Thomson KI4MMV – for her coordination and leadership of the 2006 Occonneechee BSA Council Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).
- Rod Thomson KI4LSN – for his coordination of the field day Get On The Air (GOTA) station.
- Cliff Broughton AG4XR – for is service as RARS auctioneer.
- Andy Peterson NI4S – creator and implementer of the RARS HF Challenge Operating Award Program.
- Joe Squashic W4TTO – for his service as NTS traffic training instructor.
- Bob Woodson WX4MMM – for his service as team leader for the annual December Skywarn Recognition Day for the Raleigh NWS office.

A plaque was presented to Dick Orander KD4ISC in recognition of his support and coordination of RARS public service events.

The following groups of people were asked to stand and be recognized for their service to the club:

- All who participated in a public service event in 2006.

General Meeting - March 2007

- All net control stations.
- All who completed NTS traffic training.
- All who serve on the RARS VE team.

Chuck Littlewood K4HF reported that a special election will be needed for the replacement of Dick Bitner W8HYD as president of RARS. The election is required by the bylaws because the remaining term of the president's office is greater than 6 months. A nominating committee comprised of Chuck K4HF, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Greg Seamster KE4PAX and Dick Orander KD4ISC is recommending the nomination of Selene Montgomery KG4RMT to fill the remaining term of President for the club. Rick Crapse KB4TKQ is being nominated to fill the remaining term of the Vice President position (should Selene be elected as President). The floor will be opened for nominations at the April meeting and the election will take place then.

Door prizes were won by: James Marolda KE4DRN and Lily Ferrarini KC4AYH.

Hank Montgomery K4HM provided a program on the upcoming April 1 RARSfest. The event will be held in the new Expo building at the state fairgrounds. There are plans for another special event station (N4C) as well as a J-pole building station and foxhunt. Plenty of volunteer help is needed to make this event a success. There are sign up sheets available at the back table and members may volunteer via the RARS website – www.rars.org. Tickets are also available for purchase tonight. The RARSfest worker's party will be held on June 16 at Lake Crabtree Park. Members are encouraged to take part in the hamfest dinner and social held on Saturday night, March 31. Everyone is reminded to bring a covered dish to the event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Attendance: 67

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary.

Amateur Radio Nets

The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

The VOIP Hurricane net is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater

442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 131.8) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

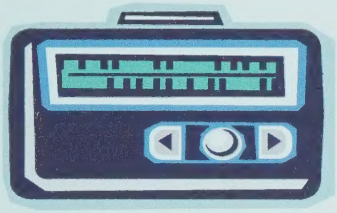
Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

April 10 — "Radio Check Night" with CCS EC Virginia Enzor NC4VA. We will take check-ins on our primary and backup repeaters. Please see our website for a list of the frequencies.

April 17 — "Basic Spotter Training: Part One" with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

April 24 — "Basic Spotter Training: Part Two" with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS
Exciter
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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SKYWARN Spotter Dinner

All weather enthusiasts and spotters are invited to join Central Carolina SKYWARN for a Spotter dinner on Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 PM at the Golden Corral Restaurant on 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh.

Following the dinner, special guest speaker Jeff Orrock, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist, will present a program on the Reiglewood tornado and the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

For more information, please contact Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA at NC4VA@nc.rr.com.